State Of South Dakota

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION FOR VALOR

Office Of The Governor

On Thursday November 26, 1981, Thanksgiving Day, Donald Chamberlain saved the life of Curtis Mincks, eight weeks of age, by administering Cardio Pulmonary Resusciitation (CPR).

Don arrived for Thanksgiving dinner at a friend's home just after the baby stopped breathing. He took the child from his mother and checked for vital signs. When he found no pulse or breathing, he began administering CPR. Cradling the baby in his arms he breathed life-giving air into his lungs. After a few minutes he was rewarded by resumption of the baby's pulse and respirations.

The difference between life and death is mere seconds. Few things are more frightening than witnessing a struggle along that thin line. By performing CPR quickly, concisely and, most important, successfully, Donald Chamberlain kept a baby from crossing that line.

It is no small act to save a life because each step of the way the need for confidence combined with ability to make the attempt to save a life can turn aside the best of people. A tragedy was averted on Thanksgiving Day, 1981, because Don Chamberlain was not turned aside by a lack of confidence or ability. He was not turned aside by a moment of panic or a split second of hesitation. He did what needed to be done. Next year the Mincks family can hope for a much more pleasant Thanksgiving.

Don Chamberlain's quick action, skill and courage in saving Curtis' life gives all South Dakotans cause to commemorate his act.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim publicly the valor of

DON CHAMBERLAIN

and join his family and friends in saluting him for his selfless courage and valor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventh Day of December, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-One

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

REDUCTION 2/3 ROLL NO. 2 DATE FILMED CAMERA OPERATOR